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AUTHOR	Peters, Katherine
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ABSTRACT

This guide for children of personal names is a list of Gwich'in people who lived during the past one hundred years. This list was designed for those interested in how traditional native names were made up, and for those who may want to choose traditional Gwich'in names for their children. The introduction traces the development of Gwich'in name giving with Christian influence, and the list shows the Gwich'in names alphabetically with their English translations. (NCR)

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DEENAADAI' GWICH'IN OOZHRI'

TRADITIONAL GWICH'IN NAMES

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DEENAADĄĮ' GWICH'IN OOZHRI'

Written by
Katherine Peter

Alaska Native Language Center
University of Alaska
Fairbanks, Alaska

1978

TRADITIONAL GWICH'IN NAMES

Written by Katherine Peter
Introduction by Jane McGary

Gwich'in Athabaskan

First Printing 200 copies

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INTRODUCTION

Here are the names of many Gwich'in people who lived during the past hundred years or so. Katherine Peter has made up this list from names that she remembers or that people have told her. We hope it will interest people who want to know how traditional Native names were made up, and who perhaps want to give their own children traditional Gwich'in names.

In the old days, when a baby was born it was given a name chosen by its parents. As the person grew up, his name might change as he developed distinctive physical or personality features, or when he did something that people remembered him by. Sometimes when a person had a child, he or she would become known as "_____'s father" or "_____'s mother". (Such names are called teknonyms.)

When Christian missionaries came to Gwich'in country and began baptizing people into their faith, they gave them personal names from the Bible. The newly named Gwich'in people sometimes were known only by their Christian names, and sometimes by the Christian name plus their Gwich'in name. Then when these renamed people had children, their children were usually baptized with personal Christian names and given their father's Christian name as a last name (surname). These second names were adopted by most Gwich'in people as permanent surnames.

To see how this worked, imagine a baby being born in the nineteenth century, before white men came to Gwich'in country. The baby is named "Khagohoonjik", 'he arrived quickly', perhaps because he was born very quickly. As time passes, his father becomes known as "Khagohoonjik Viti'" 'Khagohoonjik's Father"

in place of whatever name he had before the birth of his child. As Khagohoonjik grows up, perhaps he becomes quite tall, and people start calling him "Njyah," 'long and tall'. Then a missionary visits the village and Njyah is baptized. The missionary names him "John". But there are many people named John, so people call this John "John Njyah", 'tall John'. John Njyah marries and has a son, who is baptized with the first name "Peter", and becomes known as "Peter John". When Peter John grows up and has children of his own, they probably have names like "Mary John" and "Joseph John", because by this time the naming customs had become like those of Europeans.

Translations or explanations are given for some of the names in this book. In some cases these are not known for sure, so they have been omitted or put in with a question mark. If anyone knows more about these names, or knows other traditional Native names that they would like to have recorded

for the future, we would like to hear from them. Perhaps schoolchildren would like to try to find out the Native names of their own ancestors and write them down. There is a lot of history in these names, just as there is in the names of places.

We hope everyone enjoys this book and perhaps is inspired to record more Gwich'in history. We hope, too, that parents who want to help preserve their culture will be encouraged to give their children Native names along with their parents' names. Anyone who wants to do this and needs help with the spelling can call the Alaska Native Language Center in Fairbanks for information.

NAMES OF GWICH'IN PEOPLE

Adam Ch'iki' Kal	'bald-headed Adam'
Aldzak	exact meaning unknown, refers to kind of personality
Anaarii Tsal	'little Anaarii'-exact derivation unknown
Belle Ch'ihtroo	?
Belle Kaii	'lively Belle'
Bool Diky'aalyaa	Paul ?
Ch'aadzahti'	'dance's father'
Ch'agho'ree	'deformed teeth'
Ch'ants'at Gil	'chapped forehead'
Ch'antsih Dzii	'dirty nose'
Ch'antsih Daa	'red nose'
Ch'arahmaa Vahan	?'s 'wife'
Ch'arahmaa Viti'	'?'s father'
Ch'atł'oo Zhuu	'little gall bladder'
Ch'atł'at	?
Ch'atthą̨ii Ndee	'big game animal's eye'
Ch'eeghwałti'	'?'s father'
Ch'eelil	'pulling a sled'
Ch'eelil Viti'	'pulling sled's father'
Ch'ideeghan	'upper part of body'
Ch'idin	'around the lips'
Ch'idin Gwatsoo	'light hair on lips'

Ch'idrit Ghwat	'bowlegged'
Ch'idzigyaak	'chickadee'
Ch'igii Ndeek'it	'calf's eye socket'
Ch'igwehtrya'	?
Ch'igwihch'in	'looks alike'
Ch'ihdi'	'jaw'
Ch'iitsii Tṡ'ik	'narrow iron'
Ch'iji' Nah'in	'horn looker'
Ch'ik'il Ghoo	'round diaper'
Ch'iki' Dral	'curly hair'
Ch'iki' Ghoo	'round head'
Ch'iky'aa	'forearm'
Ch'ilik K'atree	'cries for song'
Ch'indee Gwatł'at	'puffed eyes'
Ch'ineedoolk'at	?
Ch'itł'e'	?
Ch'itrik	?
Ch'itsiidzit	'bobbed tail'
Daada'	?
Daanil Ch'itr'il Dzak	'Daniel ?'
Daatsoo Gii	'mouse's child'
Daayaa	?
Dachanaatąįį	'makes a trail over rotten wood'
Dahjałti'	?
Danaavee	?
David Ch'aa	David ?

Deech'its'ik	?
Deedzii	?
Deetree Zhuu	'little crow?'
Deetryą' Ch'oo'aa	'let the crow eat'
Deets'at	'sucker (fish)'
Deht'oo	'nest up high'
Dihch'i' Zyąą	?
Dinjii Ts'ik	'skinny man'
Disizeeti'	?
Ditrik	?
Ditsii Giitł'ųų	'after his grandpa'
Ditsii Kwaiichan	'his grandpa's ankle'
Ditsii Ndah	'his grandpa's presenc (a name given to a child born while his grandfather was still alive)
Ditsuuzhri'	'his grandma's name'
Divi'	?
Diyąąhtł'įį	'ties it to himself'
Di'ahaa	?
Drit	?
Dziigwaajyah	?
Eejiighwaa	'where's the pack?'
Elijah Figar	'Elijah always figures
Eliza Ch'at	'tough Eliza'
Emah Saa	?
Esias Tatoo	'Esias cane'

Filik Zhrąįh	'black Phillip'
Gaaman	?
Gabriel Tsyąh	Gabriel 'yellow-billed fish duck'
Geedirin	Katherine
Geegii	Maggie
Geelok	?
Geendii	'around the bend'
Goghwaii	'changes sides', name of a man who had the habit of joining the winning side in wars
Gwaandaii	'it tastes'
Gwankahti	?
Gwat'an	?
Gwats'a' Rikhyaa	?
Gwigehzhuu	'snow bunting'
Gwilee	?
Gwih'aa Ti'	?
Gwinee'iikaii	?
Gyahnaatąįį	?
Haneech'uu	?
Hashiinląį'	?
Henry Gwatsoo	'brown-haired Henry'
Henry Tł'aa'aa	?
Ichiichyąą	?
Iilin Tsal	'little Ellen'
Iitsoo	?

Jenny Shin	'elderly Jenny'
Jilzhit	'Gilbert'
John Ahk'an	'devil John', from dinjii ahk'an, 'man burner', the Gwich'in name for the Devil; the name of a mischievous young man
John Digin	?
John Neeshoojin	?
John Tsal	'little John'
John Tsal Khachangwih'aii	'little John ?'
Jonas Ch'akal	'Jonas trap-holding stick' the name of a very strong man
Jonas Ch'avat Njyaa	'Jonas long stomach'
Jyahts'u'	?
Jyaalii Ch'aa	'torn-up Charlie'
Jyaalii K'aa	'faded Charlie'
Ko'ehdan	'without fire'
Kǫ'nii'ak Viti'	?'s father
K'aiiheenjik	?
K'iǵhashagoo	?
K'oihshaa	
Khaatryaa	'caribou skin with tufts of shedding hair'
Khagoohoonjik	'arrives quickly'
Khagoohoonjik Viti'	'arrives quickly's father'
Khagoohoonjik Vin	'arrives quickly's mother'

Khaiindoo Ti'	'thread's father'
Khanich'ɯu	?
Khariidzee	?
Khashiinlą̨ɬ'	?
KhatsihgǪǪ	?
Kheegwaak'ik	'chatterbox'
Lagohmar Tr'iijii	?
Laryel	?
Mary Ch'idɬɬ	Mary ?
Mary Dzan	'muskrat Mary'
Mary Dzideetaa	Mary ?
Mary Ky'uu	'untidy hair Mary'
Masdik	?
Moses Ch'agho'ree	'Moses deformed teeth'
Managaa	?
Naazɥ'	'pretty face'
Nahthą̨ɬɬ	?
Nangwitsii Vin	?
Naniiyah	?
Nashatsan	?
Natr'adhat	?
Ndeechihti'	?
Neeltrik	?
Ned Slaiigaab	'sly Ned'
Neerahadhak	'pushes people around'
Neetsʼą̨ɬɬ Tiil'ee	?

Neesaa'in	?
Neezhuu	'spawned-out fish?'
Nich'it Gwilęįį	'poor girl'
Nich'it Lal	'sloppy girl'
Nich'it Yiihthan	'wanted a young girl'
Nigwehdzee	?
Nigwidiidok	?
Nildhat Ti'	?
Nitsįh Dyuu	'ugly nose'
Nitsįh Ghaii	'by his nose'
Nahtryah	'wolverine'
Ohsii Choo	'big ?'
Olti'	?
Oolam Ch'eekwaii	'Eskimo William'
Oolim Yatr'an	'William fondles'
Oorii Kaii	'lively ?'
Roovar Ch'adoo	'Robert calf of leg'
Roovar Vahan	'Robert's wife'
Sahsa'	'stares at people?'
Sam Gąįh	'skinny Sam'
Sam Veet'ee	'Sam ?'
Sarah Daatsǫǫ	'Sarah mouse'
Sarah Daatsǫǫ Yik	'Sarah mouse's mouth'
Sarah Ghoo	'round Sarah'
Shaaghan Dik	'old woman - edge of cliff?'
Shaaghan Sarah	'old woman Sarah'

Shahnyaati'	'speaks to me's father' name of a famous chief
Shahot'oo	?
Shak'ohlam	?
Shanaahshɨɨ	'amuses'
Shideegwiłthat	?
Shiduhzhuu	?
Shijyaroonyaa	'we say he's our friend'
Shineevaa	?
Shit'eezhee	?
Shoh Ki'	'bear's head'
Shoh Kwai'	'bear's foot'
Shrahzhit Gwach'aa	?
Shyahtsoo	'swallow'
Simon Til	'Simon ?'
Teezhir	?
T'ivishi'ɨ'ti'	?'s father
T'okdahthak	'nipple shaker'
T'aaval	'swaybacked'
Tł'eevi'	?
Tł'eevi' Ti'	?'s father
Tł'oo Thał	'grass pants', name of a man who was so lazy he had no skins to make his pants
Traaghaii	'by wood'
Tr'agwaltsan	?

Treenahtsyaa	'lesser tears'
Tr'ahzhruu	?
Tr'indii	?
Tr'injaa Vi'	'woman ?'
Tsęhtol	?
Tsiikhyuu	?
Tsuk Ki'	'marten head'
Tsuk Khyąhtoo	'marten trap stick?'
Tsiits'al	'bird'
Tsuk Nadhat	'marten stands'
Tsyąhkwai'	'fish duck's foot'
Tsuk Viti'	'marten's father'
Ts'eet'it Ki' Tsal	'little smoking pipe'
Ts'it Zhuu	'young porcupine'
Vadzaih Ahgii	'caribou ?'
Vakwaiitryaa	'his moccasin'
Vak'ach'iiky'uu	'warped in half'
Vak'ohtsiindee	?
Vanałthat	?
Val	'sled'
Valchąįį	?
Vantsįhtły'aa Kwaa	'no rope nose'
Vasaagihdzak	name of a legendary hero, originally a Cree Indian word
Vats'a' Gehtr'oo	'rabbit's kidney to him'
Veełeedhiinjik	?

Veetsiitł'it	?
Viidar Khehkwaii	'chief Peter'
Viidar Ky'uu	'untidy hair Peter'
Videe Viti'	'?'s father'
Vindeegwiizhii	'amusing to see'
Vitł'ee Ik Zhit Ts'it Tsi'	'porcupine's tail inside pants'
Virigaa	?
Vitsii Ahaa	'his grandfather walks'
Vitsiiyeejin	?
William Njyah	'long William'
Yijisheegwal	'mind puller', name of a woman who always spoke out and asserted her abilities in a time when most women were meek and retiring
Zhi'tsoo	'yellow lice'
Zhuu	'small'